

Marshfield Conservation Commission

103 rd Meeting

7 September 2016

Note: This was a joint meeting with the Marshfield Planning Commission and the Stranahan Stewardship Committee to listen to a presentation by Jens Hilke, Conservation Planner for the VT Dept of Fish & Wildlife.

Members Attending: Taber Allison, Allen Banbury, Ed Jalbert, Anne Miller, Sara Norton, Bob Popp, Annie Reed (Chair)

Nonmembers Attending:

Planning Commission: Bob Light and Melissa Seiffert

Stranahan Stewardship Committee: Rich Phillips

Other: Hardwick Gazette: Will Walters

Jens outlined a procedure to undertake conservation planning at the town level.

Identify a group to lead the effort

- Move beyond the choir; include other views early
- Coordinate & collaborate rather than trying to convince
- Consider community resources & strengths

Assess community readiness

Identify needs to be addressed & natural resource outcomes to address

- What outcomes do we want?
- What are the goals & expectations for success?

Sketch a roadmap

- Outline timeline
- Assign priorities.

Need to communicate with people and not just feed them information

- Participation is not a one time event so need to know your community; network
- Determine what motivates people to engage
 - Need to know their effort is not wasted
 - Their participation will make a difference

- Have a clear deadline
- Start with a celebration of your place
 - Guided tours
 - Walks & talks
 - Potlucks
 - Meet people where they're at, ie. The dump, coop, etc.
- Community Values mapping: capture local knowledge
 - Hunting & Fishing
 - Recreation
 - Scenic areas
 - Working lands
- Mapping
 - Consider landscape scale to include neighboring towns
 - Locate priorities at landscape scale
 - Utilize BioFinder, ANR Atlas, Habitat blocks
 - Move to priorities at Natural community & species scales
 - Have priority conservation areas and secondary ones
 - Identify the components
 - Rare, threatened, & endangered species
 - Wildlife corridors
 - Wetlands & vernal pools
 - Identify areas of high public value
- Potential Tools
 - Town Plan
 - A250, Wetland Regs
 - Access permits
 - Zoning districts
 - Overlay Districts
 - Zoning Regs: need to be specific as to what protecting. JAM Golf decision declared S. Burlington regs too vague
 - Subdivision Regs
- Resources:
 - Education Grant for the PC to start rewriting town plan
 - Municipal Planning Grants for townwide inventory
 - Regional Planning Commission
 - Jens can provide additional assistance.

Submitted by : Bob Popp

Submitted on: 21 Sept 2016

Approved on: 5 October 2016